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4 Colorado ● Montana ● North Dakota ● South Dakota ● Utah ● Wyoming

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6 ASPIRE Board Meeting  
7 Little America Hotel in Cheyenne, Wyoming  
8 January 27, 2010  
9 Submitted by: Brandon McLean

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11  
12 **Present**

13 Ryan Ross, Derek Sporbert, John Shafer, Mike McLean, Lori Brown- Wirth, Dan Benge,  
14 Derek Grubb, Yvette Rosenberg, Cody McMichael, Dawn Eckhardt and Brandon  
15 McLean

16  
17 **Call to Order**

18 Meeting called to Order at 8:33 a.m. by President Ryan Ross

19  
20 **Parliamentarian**

21 Dan Benge was appointed the Parliamentarian

22  
23 **President's Report**

24 Ryan Ross lead a discussion in regards to the COE meeting that was held in Miami  
25 Florida. At that meeting, Dr Arnold Mitchem stated that the council is now 30 years old.  
26 He spoke of themes for this year which he urged all TRiO professionals to embrace  
27 development, organize a regional development team, seek continuity, and speak the same  
28 language. Hence, we do not start from scratch each year. Ryan Ross told the board that  
29 Dan Benge is doing an excellent job within our region with Regional Fact Book.

30  
31 **Finance Committee Report**

32 The Finance Committee met last night, January 27, 2010, and reviewed the budget for  
33 year ending 2009. John Shafer went through last year's budget and told the board that the  
34 regional conference held in Spearfish, South Dakota was a huge money maker for us. The  
35 board thanked Cody McMichael and his team for a job well done.

36  
37 Discussion was held in regards to the 2010 budget. John Shafer covered the budget line  
38 item by line item, and visited about how we are doing, but we, as a regional board still  
39 plan to be extremely diligent about watching our expenditures.

40  
41 A new change (line item) in the 2010 budget is the ASPIRE regional state initiative  
42 grant. The amount allotted for these grants is 1,500 dollars which each state has to have  
43 matching funds to go for the state initiative grant. Dawn Eckhardt asked how we, as the  
44 board, want to set some guidelines for the award of these funds. Ryan Ross said we will  
45 be the same as COE; the board will review the proposals. The proposals will be reviewed  
46 via E business.

47

48 **Motions**

49 Dawn Eckhardt made a motion that we accept the budget for the 2010 fiscal year, Lori  
50 Brown – Wirth seconded the motion .The motion passed with all in favor.

51

52 **Motion A**

53 Motion A comes moved and seconded from the finance committee to set up a 30,000  
54 dollar aggregate limit corporate credit account (Visa) through Wells Fargo Bank. Card  
55 holders will be the President, Past President and President Elect, Treasurer and  
56 conference chair. A letter will be drafted from Derek Sporbert and Brandon McLean  
57 authorizing Wells Fargo to create such credit account. Motion passed with all in favor.

58

59 **Motion B**

60 A motion comes moved and seconded from the Finance Committee to set up state  
61 treasures with a very limited amount (3) of US Bank deposit slips in order to deposit state  
62 funds from state conferences, state fundraising activities, and other state income. (This  
63 motion is a result of a recommendation from the auditing firm that the regional treasurer  
64 not handle funds for which be reconciled with bank account). State treasurers will be  
65 responsible for the security of deposit slips and for forwarding detailed deposit  
66 transmittals to the regional treasurer. The motion passed with all in favor.

67

68

69 Board Recessed at 10:16

70 Board Reconvened at 10:28

71

72 **Present**

73 Ryan Ross, Derek Sporbert, John Shafer, Mike McLean, Lori Brown- Wirth, Dan Bengé,  
74 Derek Grubb, Yvette Rosenberg, Cody McMichael, Dawn Eckhardt and Brandon  
75 McLean , Ray Carlisle (via conference call), John Kelly, and Amanda Hilderbrandt ,  
76 (via conference call).

77

78 **State Initiatives**

79 Ray Carlisle joined the board meeting via conference call to discuss state initiatives. Ray  
80 will be stepping down from this committee. Ray gave a history of the funding for TRiO.  
81 TRiO associations were formed to lobby for appropriations and the re authorization of the  
82 law in which TRiO was formed. Overall, we have had tremendous success in these  
83 endeavors. In the last few years, it was becoming clear that we need not only help from  
84 the federal level, but we also need to have a voice in state educational policies as well.  
85 We need to form partners that will be beneficial in order for us (TRiO) to be recognized  
86 as a resource of educational plans. We have more than 40 years experience advocating for  
87 low income first generation students. A few goals for this to happen, is, that each state  
88 has a state fact book, which, is updated each year. Form relationships with educational  
89 policy makers within each state such as the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and  
90 people in the legislature.

91

92

93

94 **By Laws Dan Benge**

95 Dan Benge stated that there were no changes to the by laws, however, the operational  
96 guidelines may be something that needs to be changed. ASPIRE has changed our  
97 incorporation from Wyoming to North Dakota, we, as a board, may need to hire an  
98 attorney in North Dakota.  
99

100 **Membership Dawn Eckhardt**

101 Dawn Eckhardt presented the board with a quarterly report from the membership  
102 committee. Membership is up from last year. Currently, we have 309 members, which is  
103 in an increase of 18 members. Please make sure that directory is updated. Also, be aware  
104 that is people are not members of ASPIRE then they need to pay non member rates or  
105 join as a member and pay normal rate.  
106

107 **Leadership Development Institute Oscar Felix**

108 Oscar Felix reported on Leadership Development Institute. Discussion followed as how  
109 to get people there and how we as a board can support them in the leadership roles. Dan  
110 Benge thanked Oscar and Andrea for a great job putting LDI back on the map.  
111

112 **Corporate Development Amy Verlanic**

113 Amy Verlanic reported to the board that she has set up a meeting with MCAN Oil. US  
114 Bank has an educational leadership grant; their application is out there for us to get and  
115 currently she is looking into. Each state president is supposed to have someone to their  
116 corporate development for the committee. Dan Benge asked about LUENA Foundation,  
117 as they may be a great sponsor possibility.  
118

119 **Governmental Relations Rachel Martinez**

120 Policy Seminar is fast approaching COE asks that the board notifies them as whom the  
121 team leader will be right away. Heath Alexander sent out e mail that asked for  
122 representative schedulers and making appointments on Capital Hill. Appropriations are  
123 another major thing that we will be talking about again. COE stated we need to battle  
124 once again this year. HR3221 has passed house and onto senate, the language is for  
125 student lending is part of that bill. We need to get as many people that can go to Seminar  
126 that would be great. A major thing for us is to have students and alumni present and  
127 regional and state fact book would be really helpful. Can we try to get our positive  
128 alumni see if they would be willing to come or send a letter to our congress man?  
129

130 **Development Carol Gritts**

131 Carol Gritts spoke of the need to have each state to appoint a Fair Share Representative,  
132 which is the past state president. There are two fair shares, COE and ASPIRE. We want  
133 to make fair share for the COE, some of the other regions are going to beat us however  
134 we may not need to make fair share. Some of the programs pre paid. We may be at a  
135 deficit of fair share in the amount of 51, 900.00 Carol presented us a handout of those  
136 who has not paid fair share and for us to call those we need to make fair share. Ryan  
137 spoke in regards to how with COE that we communicate that we can do other campaigns  
138 at the last minute. Maybe we have credits for those who were over and money is already  
139 there. Ryan Ross's goal is to meet fair share and urge all people in TRiO to make

140 personal donations.

141

142 ASPIRE is the other side of the development. The goal is to get 100% of project  
143 memberships which is 100.00 dollars that is a grant allowable expense. Dan Benge  
144 mentioned that we were going to call donations personal memberships in ASPIRE so that  
145 it is not confused with COE. It was decided that we call COE Fair Share and ASPIRE and  
146 on behalf of the board Carol Gritts does an excellent job and hard work.

147

#### 148 **2010 Conference Committee Brandy and Ginny**

149

150 Brandy and Ginny passed out a conference agenda. The board reviewed and gave some  
151 feedback and made some suggestions. Things that were discussed is the agenda, pre  
152 conference hopefully to have a grant writing workshop as Talent Search and Upward  
153 Bound will be writing and this is an opportunity for LDI group as well.

154

155 The board recessed for lunch and a tour of the hotel property

156

#### 157 **Government Relations Update**

158

159 Ryan Ross updated the board on governmental relations issues from Miami meeting. The  
160 current budget cannot support all of the current SSS grants which may result in possible  
161 loss of SSS programs. Approximately, 35,000 students will be affected. The omnibus  
162 for 2010 is a 5 million dollar increase was allotted to TRiO programs a loss of 120 SSS  
163 projects. The job stimulus bill maybe an area with help from our congress people of  
164 attaching TRiO funding language which may occur Funding sources are I 3 and race to  
165 the top and 8 % increase to get programs back to where they should be. EOC is a  
166 possibility way to work with university to get colleges to be more supportive of  
167 graduation rates etc.

168 Dan Benge is trying to be optimistic and trying to get increase funding with regards to  
169 getting our programs and hopefully they know that TRiO is effective. Dawn Eckhardt  
170 says we need to get our name out there, we are successful. We need to promote our  
171 programs.

172

#### 173 **State Reports**

174

##### 175 **North Dakota Derek Sporbert**

176 Derek reported to the board updates of the great state of North Dakota, he also reported  
177 that the state meeting is going to be held April 19- 20<sup>th</sup> in Bismarck, ND (see state report).

178

##### 179 **South Dakota Cody McMichael**

180 Derek provided a state report to the board to review and gave a update on the great state  
181 of South Dakota. They are planning a state meeting is\_\_\_\_\_

182 (See state report)

##### 183 **Montana Mike McLean**

184 Holly Jo Barnett has resigned from Montana Tech Talent Search in order to take  
185 advantage of going to an art school in Italy; the new president of the great state of

186 Montana is Mike McLean. Mike presented the board with a report and the Montana state  
187 meeting is April 20 & 21 in Polson, MT. (See state report)

188

189 **Wyoming Lori Brown Wirth**

190 Lori Brown Wirth presented a state report to the board and gave an update on the great  
191 state of Wyoming. The Wyoming state meeting is April 22 & 23, in Casper, WY.  
192 (See state report)

193

194 **Colorado Derek Grubb**

195 Derek Grubb presented a state report to the board and gave an update on the great state of  
196 Colorado. Colorado will have a state meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at Fort Collins  
197 Community College (see state report)

198

199 **Utah Yvette Rosenberg**

200 Yvette informed the board they are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> secretary position and presented an update  
201 on the great state of Utah . Utah will have a state meeting in Ogden, Utah at Weber State  
202 university on April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> (see state report).

203

204 **Old Business**

205

206 **Utah 2011 Conference Contract**

207 Ryan Ross passed out the most recent updated contract with the Radisson Hotel in Salt  
208 Lake City, UT. The board reviewed the contract and decided it was fine. It was decided  
209 that Dawn Eckhardt sign the contract.

210

211 **CVE NT**

212 It was discussed that the CVENT contract was renewed and signed.

213

214 **501 (c) 3 Michael Wade**

215 Michael Wade not present to report on the 501 (c) 3, however, no major changes and we  
216 are still waiting for the letter of determination from the IRS.

217

218 **Regional Fact Book Dan Bengé**

219 Dan Bengé asked that all states that are working on the Regional Fact Book to please use  
220 the format that Dan Bengé has designed. He asked that all projects send him their data  
221 and he will get the information on a sheet of paper. Please have information by the first  
222 week of March so it will be ready for Policy Seminar.

223

224 **New Business**

225

226 **HPN**

227 We have a new sales person for HPN, Valerie Roach, who is replacing Shaun Gleason  
228 who is no longer with HPN. HPN is based in Oklahoma; however, Valerie Roach is in  
229 Scottsdale, AZ.

230

231

232 **2011 Conference Chair in Salt Lake City Utah**  
233 Yvette Rosenberg told the board that the person that they wanted to do this can no longer  
234 do it. So they have some time to think about different people and have a name  
235 recommend within next couple of the weeks to the board via e business  
236

237 **2012 Conference**  
238 The 2012 conference is going to be held in Montana. City and dates will be determined at  
239 a later date.  
240

241 **ASPIRATIONS**  
242 State Presidents should give an article to Russ Lamson who is the person that works on  
243 the ASPIRATIONS news article periodically.  
244

245 **I3 Funding**  
246 Training for the I 3 is February 24 & 25, 2010 in Arlington, VA. This training is totally  
247 free, but you have to pay for your airfare and lodging. This session will help you apply  
248 for I3 training funds.  
249

250 **Art Quinn Award Introduction**  
251 Before the next board meeting, the board will have to present a name to Judy Larson who  
252 is going to be the recipient of this prestigious award.  
253

254 **May Board Meeting**  
255 COE board meeting is May 20 & 21 at the Radisson hotel in Salt Lake City Utah. May 2,  
256 3 of May, 2010 for the Board meeting in Salt Lake City Utah.  
257

258 **Web Domain**  
259 Derek Sporbert discussed with the board of our old board website. How should, we, as  
260 the board, proceed with an individual that will not respond to a request from us to not  
261 have our website “live”. It was decided to have Paul Schierre of Wyoming, our attorney,  
262 to write a letter to Cease and exist.  
263

264 **Motion to Adjourn**  
265 Dawn Eckhardt made a motion to adjourn Lori Brown Wirth seconded motion. All voted  
266 in favor  
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268 Meeting adjourned at 4:13 pm  
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